Claims

1. In a device having a graphical user interface and a display, a method comprising:

receiving a video signal at the device;

receiving at the user interface device chat communications corresponding to the video signal;

displaying the video signal and the chat communications on the display in a first mode; and

displaying with the video signal and the chat communications a link to a second mode of displaying the video signal and chat communications.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the video signal is a television show.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the chat communications is text.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the video signal is displayed on a first portion of the display, and the text is displayed on a second portion of the display.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the chat overlies a portion of the video signal.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

changing the video signal to receive a different channel, and in response to the different channel sending a request to a server for different chat communication corresponding to the different channel.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

actuating the link and thereby interpreting a document having display attributes corresponding to the second mode.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying an area on the display for sending information relating to the video signal or chat communications.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying an area on the display for scrolling through the chat communications.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

selecting the link, wherein the link identifies a television markup language document, and

rendering the document to display the second mode.

11. In a device having a graphical user interface and a display, a method comprising:

receiving a video signal at the device;

sending from the device to a server chat communications relating to the video signal;

receiving from the server by the device the chat communications relating to the video signal;

displaying the video signal and the chat communications received from the server together on the display, along with a link to a different format of displaying the video signal and the chat communications.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the video signal is a television show.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein the chat is text corresponding to the video signal.

14. The method of claim 11, wherein the video signal is displayed on a first portion of the display, and the chat is displayed on a second portion of the display.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the chat overlies a portion of the video signal.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

changing the video signal to receive a different channel,

receiving a different video signal corresponding to the different channel, and

sending, in response to receiving the different video signal, a request to a server for different chat communications corresponding to the different channel.

17. The method of claim 11, further comprising actuating the link and thereby accessing a document having display attributes corresponding to the different format.

18. The method of claim 11, further comprising displaying an area on the display for sending information relating to the video signal or chat communications.

19. The method of claim 11, further comprising displaying an area on the display for scrolling through the text communications.

20. A device having a graphical user interface and a display, comprising:

means for displaying video and chat corresponding to the video in a first mode of display, and

means for switching to a second mode of displaying the video and chat corresponding to the video.

21. The device of claim 20, wherein the means for switching to the second mode includes actuating a hypertext link displayed in the first mode.

22. A device comprising a graphical user interface display, a receiver for receiving video and signals, a controller for driving the display and a memory for storing information, the memory readable by the controller, the memory having stored therein a plurality of documents written in a hypertext markup language, each one of the documents providing instructions run by the controller for displaying the video and the text together on the display in a format corresponding to that one document and different from formats corresponding to the other documents, each of the documents containing a link to another of the documents.

23. The device of claim 22 wherein the documents are written in a form of hypertext markup language.

24. The device of claim 22, wherein the video is television programming and the text is chat relating to the television programming.

25. The device of claim 22, further comprising a transmitter operated by the controller for sending text input over the Internet to a chat room broadcasting the text signals.

26. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps of:

displaying, according to a first set of instructions stored at a first address, video and chat regarding the video in a first mode of display, including displaying a link to a second set of instructions stored at a second address;

actuating the link; and

displaying, according to the second set of instructions stored at the second address, the video and the chat regarding the video in a second mode of display.